

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

Friday, January 26, 2007

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Last week, economists confirmed that the state faces \$3 billion in budget shortfalls over the next two years due to declining revenue and increasing spending demands.

That's \$3 billion in addition to the \$4 billion in deficits we've resolved in the last four years.

This critical situation demands a serious analysis about how the state got into this situation and how we move forward from here ... and we are doing just that.

This week, three seemingly unrelated announcements underscore that we need to aggressively work our plan to diversify our economy and invest in growing the talent and skills of our citizens.

First, Pfizer announced that it is eliminating more than 2,400 jobs in Michigan. Though Pfizer's decision is a devastating blow to thousands of Michigan families, it will not be a knock out punch.

In today's global marketplace, change is a constant. Some of it good, some of it bad, most of it beyond our control.

To succeed, our citizens need the tools to cope with change. In Ann Arbor, we'll do all we can to help those affected by the announcement. And across the state, our economic plan is working to provide the tools to make sure that Michigan citizens succeed.

Through our 21st Century Jobs Fund, we are attracting and growing high-tech companies.

So a second announcement was on the same day as Pfizer's announcement. AquaBioChip, a small high-tech company left Michigan State University where they began to open a new office in Lansing.

This company, aided by that 21st Century Jobs Fund, is the latest in a growing roster of companies that are creating jobs and developing new technologies here in Michigan.

Another development. This week, the MEAP data evaluating our elementary and middle school students' performance was also released.

And I'm pleased to say that scores across the state are up, especially in reading and math.

Through our economic plan we are investing more in our schools and we are expecting more of our students.

Two years ago we standardized and we strengthened the content that is taught to our students in grades K-8.

Those revamped expectations have given teachers a clearer, more consistent road map and the results are impressive.

In the coming days, there will be a lot of conversation about where our state is headed and how Michigan will fare in the face of an economic hurricane. We will weather the storm and keep moving forward.

Michigan's economic plan is the most aggressive in the nation – and it's the right plan to move our state forward. By investing in the things that make us competitive as a state – such as our workers and our students – we are creating opportunity for all Michigan citizens.

Thank you for listening.